



Public Announcement

30 March 2006

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT

INTRODUCTION: Notice is hereby given of a public workshop and scoping meeting to be conducted by the Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (Corps), at 5:00 PM on Tuesday, April 25, 2006, at the Bauer Community Center, 2300 North Highway 35, Port Lavaca, Texas 77979.

BACKGROUND: The Corps is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Department of the Army Permit Application **24071** for the Calhoun County Navigation District's proposed widening and deepening of the Matagorda Ship Channel. The project involves widening and deepening of the Matagorda Ship Channel and dredging of a new turning basin and marine slip. The project extends approximately 27 miles from the Port of Port Lavaca-Port Comfort turning basin in Lavaca Bay, through Matagorda Bay, and offshore into the Gulf of Mexico, in Calhoun and Matagorda Counties, Texas. The Calhoun County Navigation District proposes to widen the existing channel an additional 200 to 300 feet, and to deepen the channel an additional 8 feet.

Please see the attached "Information Paper" and proposed project plans for additional details on the proposed project.

To address the complex issues associated with the proposed project, we have invited the following Federal and state agencies to provide technical advice during preparation of the EIS:

- National Marine Fisheries Service
- United States Coast Guard
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas General Land Office
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas Department of Transportation

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP & SCOPING MEETING: An informal open house will be conducted between 5:00 PM and 6:00 PM, prior to the scoping meeting. The open house is to provide basic information to the public on the proposed project and the EIS process. The formal scoping meeting will begin at 6:00 PM and is to help the Corps identify environmental concerns, study efforts needed, and meet the National Environmental Policy Act requirements for preparing an EIS. Therefore, this meeting is to provide an opportunity for all interested persons to comment and provide information to the Corps for use in identifying problems associated with the project, conducting additional studies, and preparing the EIS.

Every effort will be made to address concerns/issues identified in the draft EIS. Following the issuance of the draft EIS, the Corps plans to hold a public hearing where there will be an additional opportunity for the public to express their views. Please bring this notice to the attention of others known to be interested in the subject of the meeting.

If you need additional information or have questions concerning this notice, please contact Denise Sloan by telephone at 409-766-3962, or by e-mail at denise.l.sloan@swg02.usace.army.mil, or you may write to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Attn: Ms. Denise Sloan, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, Texas 77553-1229.

CONDUCT OF THE PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING: The District Engineer, Galveston District, Corps of Engineers, will serve as the presiding officer at the public scoping meeting. The District Engineer will take all actions necessary to conduct a fair, impartial, and orderly meeting. To this end, powers of the District Engineer include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) To regulate the course of the meeting and conduct of the parties, their counsel, and the public in attendance.
- b) To establish reasonable time limits for oral statements of parties, their counsel, or representatives.
- c) To receive into evidence all written statements, charts, tabulations, and similar data.
- d) To ask questions of speakers for purposes of clarification.

All persons will be given an opportunity to present oral and written statements, including documentary materials, at the public meeting. Any person will be entitled to be represented by, or speak through, legal counsel or other representative, to call witnesses who may present oral statements, and to present recommendations as to an appropriate study, or other considerations. Prior to the opening of the meeting, each person will be requested to complete an attendance card. The attendance card will contain information blocks on which persons attending the public meeting can give their name, address, and whether they wish to present an oral statement during the public meeting.

Statements and information may be provided without restriction by formal procedures and rules of evidence; however, all statements and information provided must concern the subject matter of the meeting.

All statements shall be addressed to the District Engineer. Cross-examination of any person addressing the public meeting, by any person in attendance, will not be allowed

The District Engineer, or representative, will be given the first opportunity to speak and will be allowed the necessary time to complete their oral statement. Other persons intending to address the public meeting will be called upon and should come prepared to complete their oral statement in not more than five minutes (subject to change based on attendance). Statements by any person that cannot be completed within the time allotment should be summarized orally, and the full text submitted in writing.

Written statements or information materials for inclusion in the record, including documentary materials, may be presented during the public meeting or may be mailed to the District Engineer, Galveston District, Corps of Engineers, at the following address:

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, GALVESTON
ATTENTION: CESWG-PE-RB
P.O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

All statements, both oral and written, will become part of the official record of the public scoping meeting and will be made available for public examination. Mailed statements to be included in the record must be mailed on or before May 25, 2006.

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS